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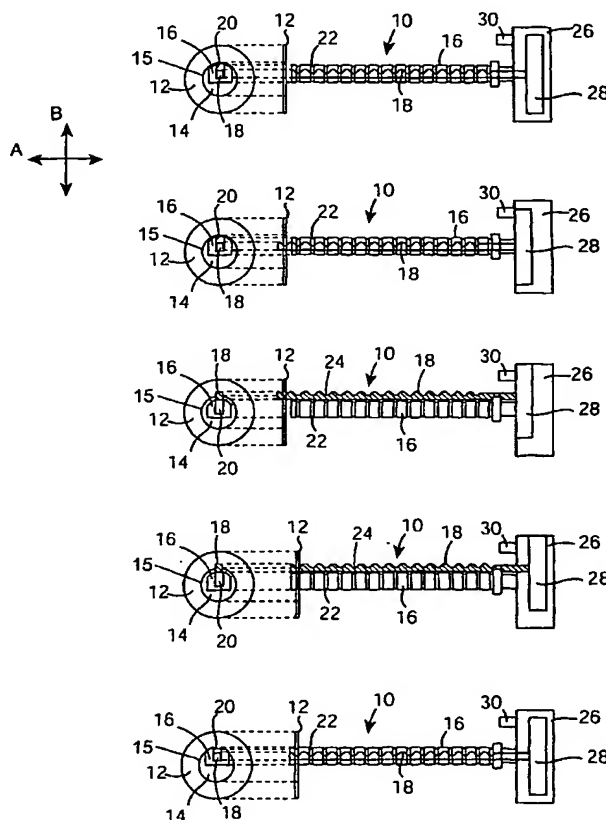
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HANDLING DISCS PROVIDED WITH AN APERTURE



(57) Abstract: The present invention is concerned with both a method and an apparatus for handling objects, in particular discs (12) such as CD's or the like having an aperture (14) therein defining a rim (15), the method comprising the steps of providing an elongate arm (18), and providing an elongate support (16) adjacent the arm; extending the arm (18) through the aperture (14) of at least one of the discs (12); engaging the arm (18) with the rim (15) of the disc (12); retracting the arm (18) such as to position the rim (15) over the support (16); and displacing the arm such that the rim is engaged by the support, and then repeating this sequence of steps in order to stack a plurality of the discs (12) onto the support (16) for subsequent transfer and unloading.

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 865 509 A (CARLTON RICHARD J) 12 September 1989 (1989-09-12) abstract; figures 1,2 column 2, line 45 -column 4, line 8 ---	1-7,9, 10,12,13
A	US 5 259 719 A (AKAGAWA MINORU) 9 November 1993 (1993-11-09) abstract; figures ---	1-5,9, 10,12,13
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 09, 31 October 1995 (1995-10-31) -& JP 07 153073 A (KAWASAKI HEAVY IND LTD), 16 June 1995 (1995-06-16) abstract; figures 4,5,7 --- -/-	1-13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN  vol. 0181, no. 30 (M-1570),  3 March 1994 (1994-03-03)  -&amp; JP 05 318375 A (NEC CORP),  3 December 1993 (1993-12-03)  abstract; figures  -----</p>	1-13

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4865509	A	12-09-1989	US 4907939 A	13-03-1990
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JP 05318375	A	03-12-1993	NONE	